i6th October THE EARL OF ESSEX TAKES LEAVE or HIS ARMY

The gentlemen in the army in Normandy were much distressed on learning that they were to return to England

It was hoped at this time to attempt some enterprise against Rouen, and on the 6th of the month every man was ordered to put himself in readiness to march by two o'clock in the morning Very early next day, the Lord General with his voluntary gentlemen went to the Marshal Biron's quarters, where he found the Marshal ready and accompanied with many of the nobility

The Lord General being very glistering with a great plume of feathers in his hat, the Marshal began to say to him merrily, * What, you young gallant, are you come hither to brave me with your white feathers ? I think I have white feathers too ' , and with that called for a hat set with a mighty plume, and a horseman's coat of tawny velvet frill of silver lace, and there- upon put on the hat which caused him to look like an old cutting ruffian of Smithfield This pleasant humour grew out of a confident hope he had of the good success of some intelligence received from Rouen, which was that one of the Colonels of the Governor of Rouen had promised, on account of some injury he had received from the Governor, to deliver a gate of the town to Monsieur Rollett, Governor of Pont de 1'Arch

An hour before day, Monsieur Rollett with the Lord General came to the rendezvous at Martmville With him were about 2000 Gascons, harquebusiers on foot, two regiments of Swiss, Hallard Mountmorency with five troops of mounted cuirassiers , and the English under Sir Roger Williams, 2500 men with 140 horses The troops that before were dull with

sickness and dis-
content now grew into wonderful of hope of what the French
promised, and after a short breakfast marched towards Rouen
three leagues, but here, having reached a wood in sight of the
town not half a league off, a messenger came from the Marshal
to the Earl of Essex who was tvith the foremost troop that he
should halt because there was treason in the intelligence,
which much amated the soldiers

After resting a while the Marshal came up and directed that
they should march to a place called Direntoun, about as near as
Mile End is to London from Rouen, which was reached so